Special Superintendents' Webcast

Aug. 11, 2020

TEAM KENTUCKY

Kentucky Department of Education
Our Children, Our Commonwealth

Agenda

KDE Communications Updates

Toni Konz Tatman, KDE Interim Director of Communications

Special Guest: Marion Sowders, Superintendent of Casey County Schools

Suicide Prevention During the Time of COVID-19

Patti Clark, Beck Whipple, Cathy Prothro and Laura Edwards

Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health

New KDE Guidance – Library Media Centers

Ben Maynard, KDE Office of Education Technology

New KDE Guidance – Virtual Class Size

Kelly Foster, KDE Associate Commissioner, and Marty Park, KDE Chief Digital Officer

Health Updates with the Kentucky Department for Public Health

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Connie White and Immunization Branch Manager Emily Messerli, DNP, APRN

Discussion on Gov. Beshear's Recommendation to Delay Return to In-Person Classes

Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman

Question and Answer Session

KDE Leadership Team and Invited Webcast Guests

KDE Communications Updates

- Coverings for Kids Kicks Off Today – How to Participate
- How to Access COVID-19 Guidance Documents and Resources on the KDE Website
- FAQs for Kentucky's Schools and Districts – More than 700 questions Answered Since March
- District Shout-Outs and Examples
- Special Guest: Marion Sowders, Superintendent, Casey County Schools

Toni Konz Tatman

KDE Interim Director of Communications,

Office of the Commissioner

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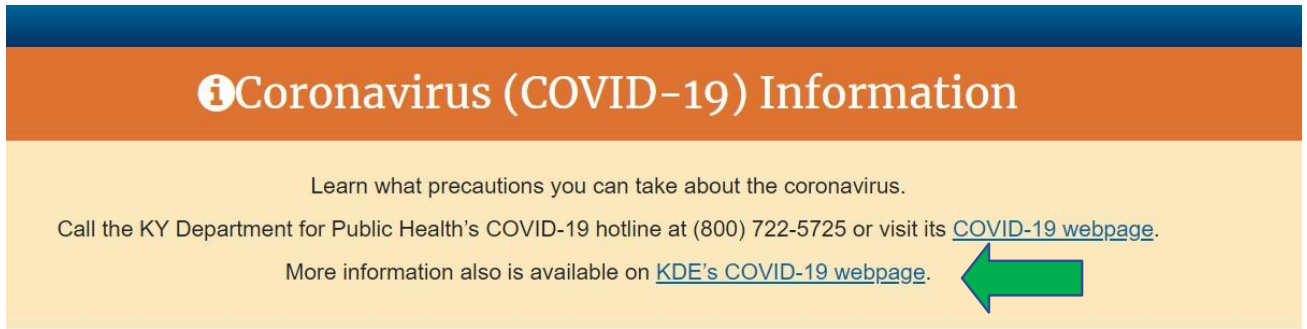
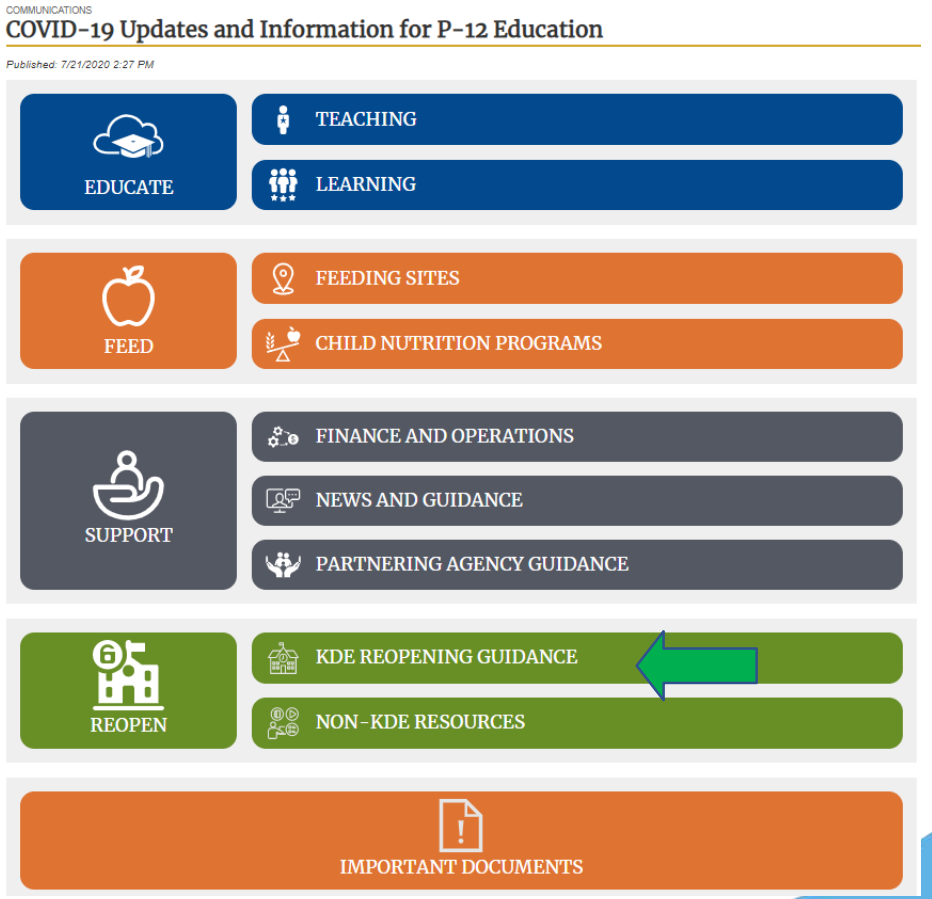
Coverings for KIDS

- Initially announced by First Lady Britainy Beshear during the Aug. 4 Special Superintendents' Webcast; later shared at Gov. Beshear's press conference
- As of today, 53 local school districts (100 % of those responding so far) have appointed coordinators and will begin collecting face coverings and masks!
- Districts have received outreach packet, including language, graphics, drafted social media posts and emails for promotion.
- Districts will decide the ultimate use of the masks

Kentucky Department of Education – Main Webpage



KDE COVID-19 Webpage



Overview of KDE Guidance Issued for Reopening Schools

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In response to the COVID-19 crisis, KDE has been committed to providing guidance and solutions that focus on educating and feeding our children and providing support to our districts.

*Since May 15, we have been releasing **weekly** guidance documents to all of our superintendents and districts regarding reopening schools for the 2020-2021 year.*

We also created this "KDE Reopening Guidance" tab on our COVID-19 website, where you can find all of the guidance and our weekly Special Superintendents' Webcasts, which we have been holding since March.

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To Date: KDE COVID-19 Guidance Issued for Reopening of Schools

***May 15**: Initial Guidance for Districts and Schools*

***May 26**: Supporting Student and Staff Wellness*

***June 1:** Academic Re-entry, Stage One: Drafting an Adjusted Curriculum*

***June 1:** Evaluating Students' Academic Readiness*

***June 8:** Alternative Learning Design Strategies*

***June 15:** Intermittent School Closures*

***June 22:** Food Service Operations - USDA School Meal Programs*

***June 24:** (With Kentucky DPH) Safety Expectations and Best Practices Guidelines for Kentucky Schools (K-12)*

***June 25:** Pupil Transportation*

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To Date: KDE COVID-19 Guidance Issued for Reopening of Schools

June 29:

- *Facilities and Logistics*
- *Plan for Reopening Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Facilities for Completion of Industry Certifications and Lab-Based Dual Credit Coursework*

July 6:

- *Workplace Health and Safety*

July 13:

- *Academic Re-entry, Stage Two: Meeting Learners' Academic Needs*

July 20:

- *Exceptional Learners and Preschool Students*
- *Compensatory Education and Extended School Year Services*
- *Daily Participation and Non-Traditional Instruction*

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To Date: KDE COVID-19 Guidance Issued for Reopening of Schools

July 24:

- *Flexibility for Assigning Staff in the COVID-19 Instructional Settings*

July 27:

- *Food Service Operations – Waivers for USDA School Meal Programs*

Aug. 10:

- *Library Media Center*
- *Class Sizes in Virtual Programs and Courses*

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COVID-19: Answers to FAQs for Kentucky's Schools and Districts

(Last updated Aug. 10)

Note: Responses provided herein are based on the best information available to the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Board of Education and Commissioner of Education when published and do not constitute medical or legal advice. Responses are subject to change and are for general information purposes only. If you are seeking medical advice, please see https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19 and consult with a medical professional. If you are seeking legal advice, please consult with an attorney.

What question(s) do you have about COVID-19? How can we help you?	KDE staff response	Available link for districts to use?	Date updated
If district is choosing a split inperson/virtual week and a parent of a student with special needs requests in-person attendance all 5 days stating it is their LRE, how do we handle this?	Please contact Veronica Sullivan at veronica.sullivan@education.ky.gov or Sylvia Starkey at sylvia.starkey@education.ky.gov in the Office of Special Education and Early Learning to discuss the specific situation.		8/4/2020
Incoming kindergarten students are assessed using BRIGANCE at the start of each school year. Since several districts are beginning school either virtually or with a hybrid model, will this be waived for the 2020-21 school year?	Virtual administration of assessments within the BRIGANCE Screens III is not recommended at this time. The procedure for administering the Screens III does not easily lend itself to videoconferencing technology and, therefore, Curriculum Associates has not validated administration of the BRIGANCE Kindergarten screen (the K screen) through a virtual approach. At its August 2020 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education will consider a waiver to expand the timeframe of testing and reporting. The board will also discuss giving the Commissioner of Education the authority to exempt schools from screening students who may not attend schools in person.		8/4/2020
Must school-based preschool programs follow childcare guidelines and maintain a class size of 10?	KDE recommends using the room capacity calculator to determine the class size. A link is adjacent.	https://education.ky.gov/comm/Documents/RoomCapacityCalculator.xlsx	8/4/2020
What precautions should schools take if a student has medical waiver from the mask requirement and is in a classroom with medically fragile students? Who can attend school in that classroom?	Students should not be excluded from school if they do not or cannot wear masks, but extra precautions should be taken when medically fragile students are involved. In this situation, districts must be vigilant about everyone else following the	https://education.ky.gov/comm/Documents/Safety%20Expectations_FINAL%20DOC.pdf	8/4/2020

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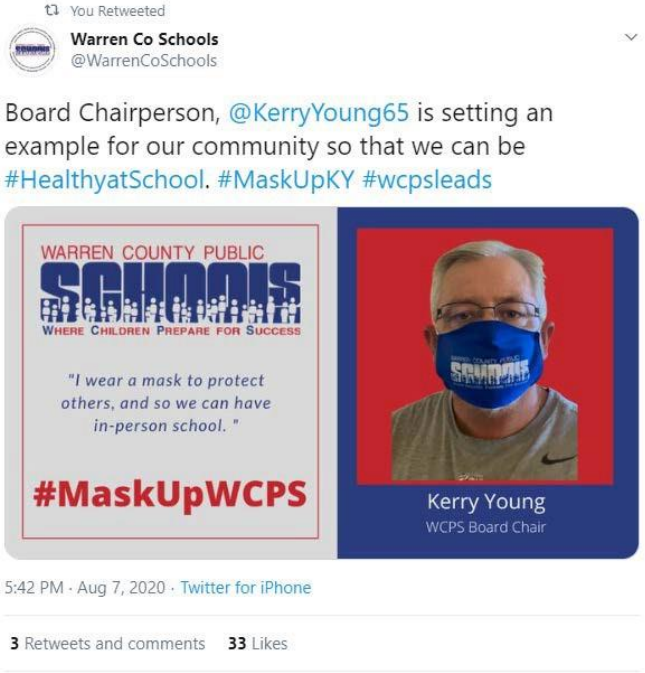
Shout-Outs and Examples

- We have seen so many great examples (photos and videos) from many districts on how you are wearing masks, why you are masking up and how you are preparing your students and families for when you are able to re-open schools to in-person instruction! Thank you!



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Casey County Schools Video Series

- Student Arrival
- Bus Transportation
- Parent Drop-Off
- Classroom Guidelines
- Late Arrival and Parent Pick-Up

Be sure to tag KDE (or email me) and let us know what you are doing so we can share it with our audience, as well as with local, state and national media partners!

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Suicide Prevention in the time of COVID-19

PATTI M. CLARK, ED.D., MBA, CPS B

ECK WHIPPLE, BA

PROGRAM MANAGER, PREVENTION AND PROMOTION

KY DEPARTMENT FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Why Now?

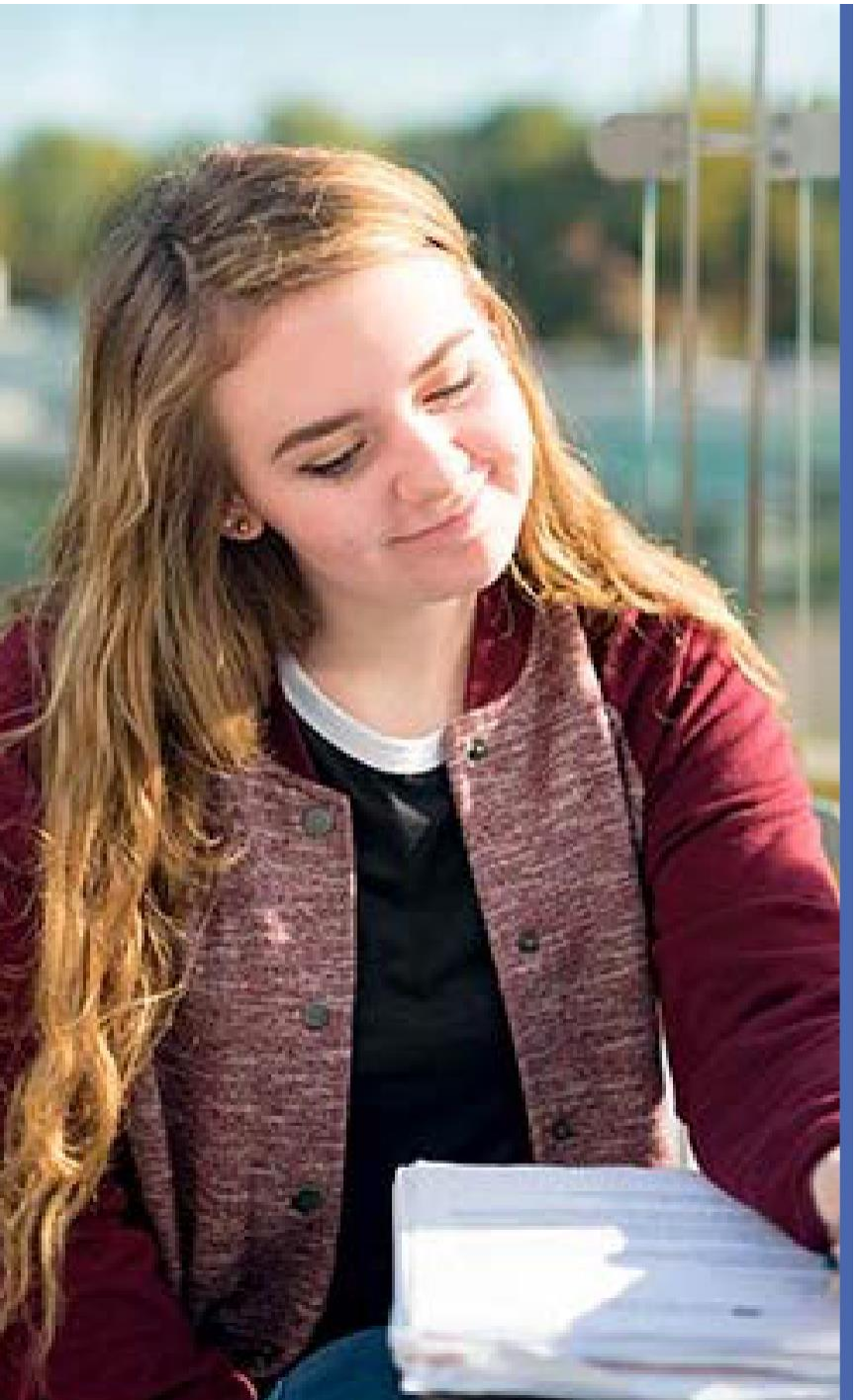
The Perception of Safety Impacts Suicidal Behavior

- 14.6% of Kentucky middle and high school students said they felt unsafe or very unsafe at school
- Among high school students, the rate of feeling unsafe is 17.3%
- Those who feel unsafe are 4X as likely to attempt suicide
- Suicide is the leading cause of death among youth ages 10-14
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among those ages 15-34

Kentucky Incentives for Prevention, 2019; CDC Wonder

Requirements for Suicide Prevention Student Training

KRS.156.095 requires that by Sept. 15 of each year, every public school shall provide suicide prevention awareness information in person, by livestreaming or via a video recording to all students in grades 6 through 12. The information may be obtained from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program.



- Most suicide prevention curricula focus on teaching students:
  - Warning signs
  - Risk factors, and
  - Encouraging youth to be gatekeepers

- During periods of trauma, suicide prevention should:
  - Acknowledge grief and loss
  - Focus on help seeking
  - Build coping skills
  - Access resources

Fall semester will definitely be a time of trauma

Recommended Components/Considerations

- Resilience-building
- Coping skills
- Access to crisis lines (local, NSPL, Crisis Text Line)
- Identify who students should contact if in crisis
- Include a way to signal for help (chat function virtually)
- Utilize a second adult to monitor youth for signs of distress

One Option

- Developed by national suicide prevention experts
- Address the issues resulting from COVID-19
- Available videos for middle and high school students
- Also videos for lower and upper elementary students
- Discussion guides also are being created for Kentucky schools to accompany the middle/high school videos
- Parent video and learning opportunities
- All resources are free

What Comes Next?

- A “booster” suicide prevention training should be considered for delivery in January to improve student safety and provide additional resources on accessing mental health services.

- The “Suicide Staff Student Recommendations Aug. 2020 (also known as ‘Good, Better, Best’ document)” provides information about components and programs that can be used for the booster sessions.

Suicide Prevention Student Training Recommendations

Good

Video sessions with accompanying discussion.

Better

Single sessions of an evidence-based curriculum;

Or peer-led programming without an accompanying evidence-based curriculum delivery.

Best

Face-to-face, evidence-based or evidence-informed curriculum delivered with fidelity, complimented by a peer-led culture change program.

Not Recommended for Students

- We do not recommend assemblies with a single speaker for an entire student body. The topic may be triggering for students already at risk for suicide.
- Smaller group settings permit a trauma-informed approach for delivery of materials.
- We also do not recommend having youth view videos that have not been recommended, as they may not follow safe messaging guidelines and often do not include discussion guides.

Requirements for Suicide Prevention Staff Training

KRS.156.095 requires that all school district employees with job duties requiring direct contact with students in grades 6 through 12 receive a minimum of one hour of high-quality suicide prevention training every year. The training should include the recognition of signs and symptoms of possible mental illness and shall be provided either in person, by live streaming or via a video recording.

Suicide Prevention Staff Training Recommendations

Good

Video sessions without discussion as a group and/or without inclusion of local policies and practices.

Better

Face-to-face session with no review of local policies and procedures or online simulation modules.

Best

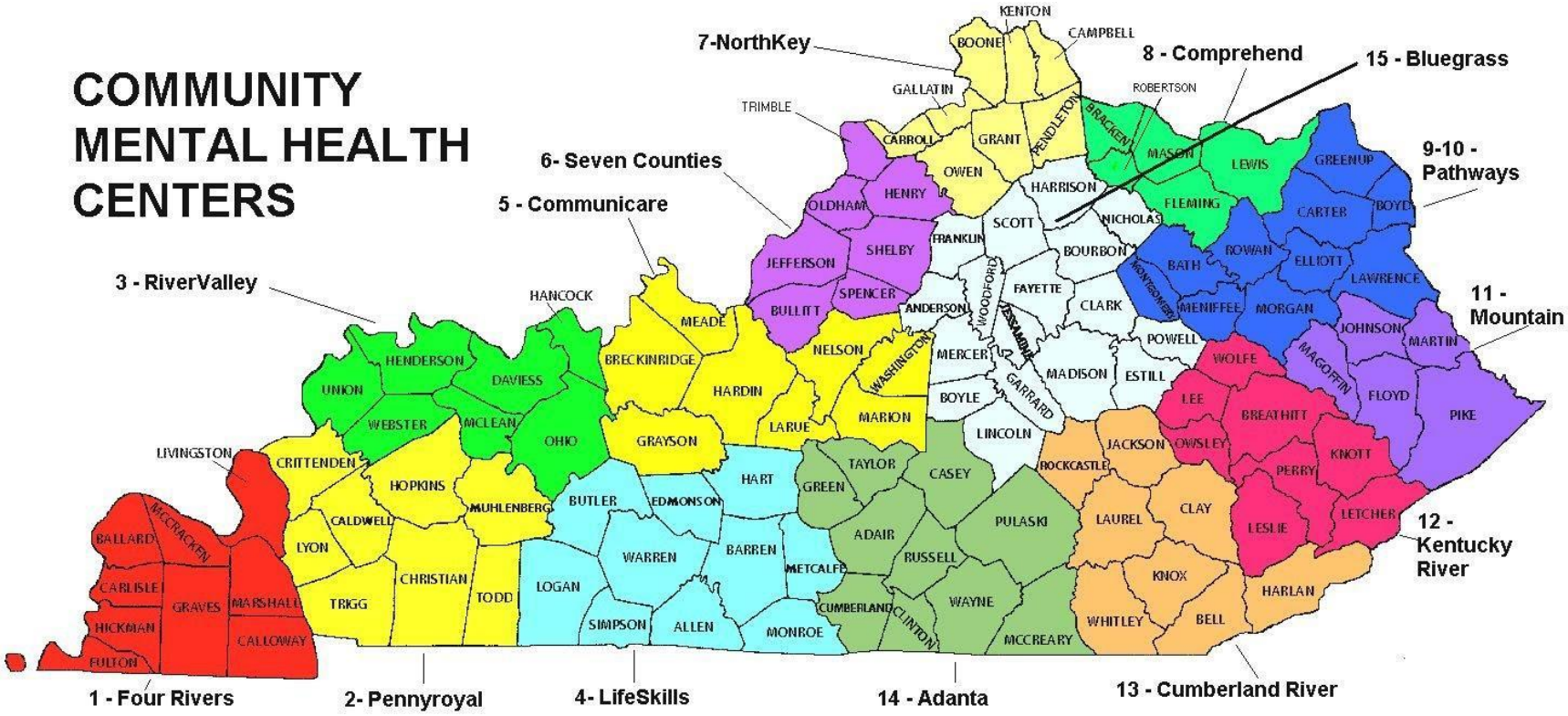
Face-to-face session with a certified trainer, including review of school's referral policies and procedures for identified students.

One Option

- Middle and high school certified staff video
- Classified staff video
- Elementary certified staff video
- SPTSuniversity.org also offers:
  - Support, Control and Structure: Self-Care for Educators
  - Making Educators Partners in Youth Suicide Prevention, Act on FACTS
  - Both have been updated for 2020
- All resources are free

Kentucky's Regional Prevention Centers

The Regional Prevention Centers serve every county in Kentucky. They are your portal to a variety of resources related to suicide prevention in your school and community. Reach out if you have questions regarding the recommended trainings or to access free resources noted with asterisks.



Patti M. Clark, Ed.D., MBA, CPS
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Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

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New KDE Guidance:

Library Media Centers

Ben Maynard, KDE Office of Education Technology

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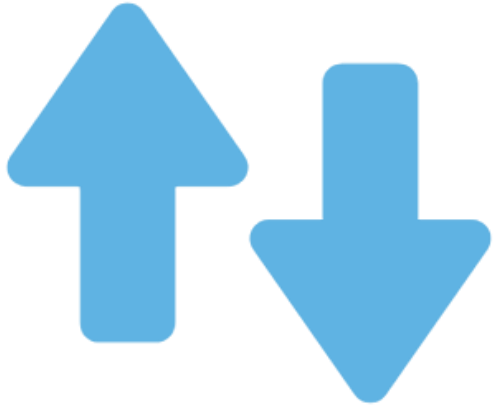
Library Services

- Safely continuing the operation of the school library is important for your students' educational experience.
- Guiding Questions
  - What are the distancing and sanitizing needs?
  - What modifications are needed for regular services provided by the library media center?
  - How can the library media specialist be a strong support for students and staff for the variety of in-person and remote learning that may occur this year?

Distancing and Sanitizing Needs

- Designate traffic patterns to help minimize contact to surfaces.
- Consider where occupancy limitations may be needed to adhere to social distancing.
- Consider creating an online space for staff to view, and possibly reserve, available times and areas for library use.

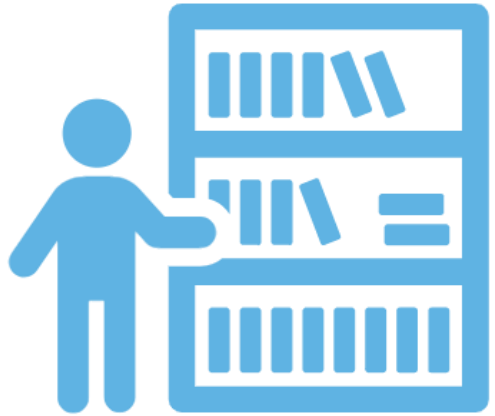


Distancing and Sanitizing Needs

- Consider options appropriate for selecting materials to check out:
  - Use online catalog to place holds on materials and have library staff retrieve items and check them out to students and staff.
  - Limit student browsing directly from shelves by having them select options in the online catalog before retrieving items.
  - Create a system where students at home can reserve items to be picked up at school or delivered with school meals.

Distancing and Sanitizing Needs

- Maintain libraries to reflect district distancing guidelines and clean space between student visits.
- If students are selecting books for check-out in physical space, limit contact during process.
- Re-shelving Books
  - When you get materials back, keep them quarantined for at least 4 days.
- Sanitize tables and circulation desk between class visits. Note this will require extra time between classes.



Modifications Needed for Regular Services Provided by the Library Media Center

- Work with technology and curriculum teams to provide professional learning for staff on the use of digital tools, including instructional strategies, data privacy, cyber security and ethical practice.
- Work to leverage funds for student use of the Kentucky Virtual Library (KYVL), with access to 217,000+ eBooks, 1,600 full text magazines and journals, encyclopedias, 55,000 primary source documents, ACT prep, etc.
- Promote and facilitate the use of online resources, such as eBooks, audiobooks, research databases and instructional tools.

KET EDUCATION

KYVL

KENTUCKY VIRTUAL LIBRARY

How can the library media specialist be a strong support for students and staff for the variations of in-person and remote learning?

- Reading promotion
- Maintaining relationships and contact with students
- In-person or virtual co-teaching
- Curriculum and instruction support through in-person or virtual collaboration

How can the library media specialist be a strong support for students and staff for the variations of in-person and remote learning?

- Specific instruction in digital citizenship, ethical use of information, accessing quality digital content
- Curation of quality digital content for students, teachers and parents
- Assist in locating eBooks and audiobooks
- On-demand video tutorials
- “To-go”-style resource check out

New KDE Guidance:

Class Sizes in a Virtual Environment

Kelly Foster, Ed.D., KDE Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Marty Park, Ed.D., KDE Office of Education Technology

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General Education Class Sizes in Schools With a School-Based Decision Making Council

- The maximum class sizes established in KRS 157.360(5)(a) do not apply to schools with a school-based decision making council (SBDM).
- Instead, policies and procedures of the SBDM should be consulted and revised as needed to ensure locally established class maximums are appropriate in light of the re-opening plans of the district and school.
- Unless the local board of education has adopted class size maximums that are the same as or more restrictive than those prescribed in statute, the SBDM has the authority to exceed class sizes established in KRS 157.360(5)(a) and, pursuant to 702 KAR 3:190, “exemptions from class size maximums shall not be required” for general education classes.

General Education Class Sizes in Schools Without a School-Based Decision Making Council

- Schools and programs that lack an SBDM must comply with KRS 157.460(5)(a), which prescribes the following class sizes:
  - Primary: 24-to-1;
  - Grade 4: 28-to-1;
  - Grades 5-6: 29-to-1; and
  - Grades 7-12: 31-to-1; however, a teacher cannot have more than 150 pupil hours in a day.
- However, a superintendent of an impacted school or program can request an exemption "when unusual circumstances warrant an increased class size."
- The KDE views the State of Emergency due to COVID-19 as "unusual circumstances" that justify exemptions be granted to class size maximums for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Any superintendent seeking an exemption for one or more general education classes in one or more schools or programs should contact KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster by email to receive a straightforward form to complete.

KDE Recommends:

- Keep students at the center of the decision by identifying the resources (per "course") necessary to ensure a high-quality learning experience occurs.

- Considerations for design decisions:
  - The ability to enlist additional facilitators per course;
  - The availability of additional content coaches; and
  - Teacher-friendly features within the platform used for virtual instruction.

- Further understand teacher capacity as it relates to student interactions. Develop a plan to gauge efficacy of interactions.

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Beyond Compliance, Important Details About “Class Size” and Virtual Learning

- Depending on the design, current research suggests a target of 15-20 students per course which may not be feasible in many circumstances.
- However, when no additional people or programmatic supports are included, you are encouraged to consider the high-end enrollment of a full-time virtual course the same as an in-person class enrollment.
- Research also suggests that the lower the virtual course enrollment, the more possible quality interactions and engagement by both teachers and students.
- When considering how to best staff virtual courses that produce highly effective digital instructional strategies, take into account the familiarity and professional learning needed for staff to be the most successful.

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Discussion: Gov. Beshear's Recommendation to delay return to in-person classes until Sept. 28

Kevin C. Brown, Interim Commissioner

Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, Secretary, Education & Workforce Development Cabinet

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COVID-19 Updates with the Kentucky Department for Public Health
(Healthy at School)

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#HealthyAtSchool

Connie Gayle White,

M.D., MS, FACOG

Deputy Commissioner

Emily Messerli,

DNP, APRN, FNP-C

Immunization

Branch Manager

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Healthy at School

Safety Expectations

Strategies that must be implemented by schools.

- School health policies
- Cloth face coverings, PPE
- Screening for all students and staff (temperature checks)
- School exclusion
- Sanitization and environmental factors
- Social distancing
- Contact tracing

Best Practices

Additional strategies that schools may choose to follow.

- Physical barriers
- Discontinuing attendance-dependent rewards
- Meals served in classrooms
- Flexible sick leave policies
- Designated Healthy at School officer
- Training for staff

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS